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Title: Need to allocate additional funds for development of tourism sector in Tamil Nadu.

SHRIMATI K. MARAGATHAM (KANCHEEPURAM): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Tamil Nadu is India's most popular and number one State attracting domestic and foreign tourists for the second year in a row. Tamil Nadu received 4.68 million foreign tourists in 2015, compared to 4.66 million in 2014. Even in the case of domestic tourists, Tamil Nadu is the number one State in our country.

Tamil Nadu under the able leadership of our hon. Chief Minister Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma has done commendable achievements in tourism sector. About Rs.18.32 crore has been spent on eco-tourism development, supported by the Asian Development Bank. Out of Rs.135 crore, Rs. 84.66 crore has been sanctioned in the Interim Budget of 2016-17.

Tamil Nadu has the best tourist places, to attract tourists from all over the world. My parliamentary constituency Kancheepuram which is called as the 'City of thousand Temples' is a well-known tourist place. Kancheepuram has the remarkable diversity of Mahabalipuram, ancient Vishnu and Shiva temples with their architectural environment.

The Finance Minister in the Union Budget 2016, had announced the annual programme to link States and districts that connect trade, culture, travel and tourism. Our hon. Chief Minister Amma is taking various measures to promote tourism in Tamil Nadu.

Hence, in order to develop tourism in Tamil Nadu, I would request the hon. Finance Minister and the Tourism Minister to allocate more funds for Tamil Nadu.